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**Jim Saxton**  
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**Statement of Chairman Jim Saxton**

**Subcommittee Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities Hearing on the  
Condition of Military Facilities and the Perspective of the Senior Enlisted**

The Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities meets this afternoon to continue hearings on the current condition of military infrastructure and facilities with an emphasis on the perspective of the enlisted. Our witnesses today serve as the senior enlisted advisors to their respective service chiefs of staff. On a daily basis, their responsibilities put them in contact with the concerns and problems - as well as the innovative suggestions and successes - of enlisted personnel. Their ability to provide an understanding of what is in the hearts and on the minds of the enlisted is critical to both the service chiefs and to the Congress.

Far too often, the men and women who volunteer to serve the Nation in the armed forces confront inadequate living and working conditions as they engage in routine assignments. The condition of ranges and other facilities supporting military training are also, in many cases, failing to keep up with advances in technology. The ability to recruit and retain qualified personnel is dependent upon improving the quality of service for those personnel. A key element in improving the quality of service is to recapitalize and modernize the infrastructure in which soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, live, train, and work and from which they deploy to fight the Nation's battles.

Although we are making progress, there is still a great deal of work left to be done. The perspective of the senior enlisted is important to our deliberations over how to spend defense resources in a manner that will meet the requirements and expectations of enlisted personnel. Quality of life, quality of work, and quality of service can only be improved with the help and the perspective of those who must deal every day with the critical shortfalls in military infrastructure.

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